[14th March 1955

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Sir, may I know whether the investigation has been completed in connexion with the formation of the road and whether the estimates have been prepared. May I also know the estimated cost of the work? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The investigation of the work has been completed and the Chief Engineer has submitted a detailed estimate for Rs. 14·74 lakhs. Since then we have received information from the Government of India that, as this is a work to be done in a backward area, they are giving full grant for it and the estimate has been submitted to the Government of India for sanction."

Watchmen in Civil Supplies godowns.

* 1333 *Q.*—SRI K. V. RAMASWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of watchmen employed in the godowns of the Civil Supplies Department in the City;

(*b*) how many of them are Gurkhas; and

(*c*) whether there is any disparity in salary paid to Gurkhas and Tamilians?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) There are 36 watchmen employed for watch and ward work in the Civil Supplies godowns in the Madras City.

" (*b*) All the thirty-six watchmen are Gurkhas.

" (*c*) Until recently there were both Gurkha and ordinary watchmen in the Civil Supplies godowns in the Madras City. The Gurkha watchmen are paid a salary of Rs. 30 per mensem plus a dearness allowance of Rs. 19 and a city allowance of Rs. 2 per mensem. The ordinary watchmen, while they were employed were paid a consolidated pay of Rs. 30 per mensem including dearness allowance provided the market rate was not less than Rs. 30 and if the market rate was less than Rs. 30 then the pay of the ordinary watchmen was being limited to the market rate."

* 1334 *Q.*—Postponed to 15th March 1955.

Overload in buses.

* 1335 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a petition from one of the workers of Sri Rama Vilas Bus Service, Kumbakonam, Tanjore district, regarding overload in buses that plied between Kumbakonam and Swamimalai in connexion with Karthikaideepam festival, during December 1954;

(*b*) whether any enquiry was conducted; and

(*c*) if so, the result of the enquiry?